

The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1912.

SOME ELECTION ANALYSES.

"She has known what her place was in the national situation. She has bided her time; and now, in the fullness of time, she expects to take her place in the councils and in the exercise of the power of a great country." Spoken of the South at Atlanta in 1910, but peculiarly applicable to Virginia at this hour, are these words of the eighth Virginian whom the nation has called to its chief magistracy, Woodrow Wilson. The might of the old order has passed, and the Old Dominion fulfills the dream of her old men and the vision of her youth. Is she not regaining her full stature in the nation wrought so largely by the genius of her sons? For the first time since bluff Zachary Taylor, of Orange, began in 1852 a term of which death denied him all but a few months, a Virginian is President. In the Senate with Virginia's commission are two sons. Senator Martin is minority leader, and with Senator Swanson, undoubtedly rise to distinguished committee chairmanships if to their party is restored control of the body. In the House, the representatives of the people of the Old Dominion have already, under a Democratic majority, achieved such eminent place that the old-time leadership of Virginia in Congress is instantly recalled. Representative Flood, now chairman of the Committee on Territories, succeeds William Sulzer, Governor-elect of New York, as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Representative Jones, who will be the third ranking member in point of service if ex-Speaker Cannon is not returned, is already chairman of the Committee on Insular Affairs. Representative Hay is chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. Representative Lamb is chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. The possession of four chairmanships of such eminence as these by one State testifies to Virginia's position in Congress. Moreover, Representative Saunders, a member of high rank of the Committee on Appropriations, is recognized as perhaps the ablest parliamentarian in the House, having been called to the chair by the Speaker more than any other member of the House, it is said. The other representatives from Virginia have excellent positions on important committees.

The turning of the tide gives the South her opportunity to prove whether or not her sons are uncommonly fitted for national leadership. To a far greater degree than any other section the South is the home of people of pure Anglo-Saxon strain. Now comes the hour when they must demonstrate whether or not they possess the Anglo-Saxon genius for self-government, the Anglo-Saxon capacity for the preserving of liberty. Are the Virginians and South Carolinians and Texans better fitted for statesmanship than the sons of Wisconsin, Massachusetts and California? If so, they of the South must now prove their title and justify their self-confidence. Can they reassert and re-establish the primacy of the South in the ordering of national affairs and in the safe guidance of the government? The test is at hand.

What of the "great popular demand" for Roosevelt? Out of all the host, only Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Washington so far stand at Armageddon. Is that the "great popular demand" that caused Theodore Roosevelt to wreck the Republican party upon the shoals of his ambition? Is that the "great popular demand" that prevented him from subordinating himself at Chicago and from permitting the nomination of another than himself or Mr. Taft? But eighty-nine electoral votes for the man who imagined himself a cause, who conceived that his individuality was the paramount issue, who madly dreamed that he was the foreordained savior of the people! The "great popular demand" for Roosevelt never existed but in his disordered imagination. It was the child of his imperial vanity.

William Howard Taft is the sixth President to be refused re-election by the people. John Adams was defeated by Jefferson, John Quincy Adams by Jackson, Van Buren by William H. Harrison, Cleveland by Benjamin Harrison, and Benjamin Harrison by Cleveland. Differences within the party figured largely in all these reverses. None of his predecessors defeated for a second term was less disliked than Mr. Taft. He has not appealed to the popular mind. He is not magnetic. In some respects he has been an admirable President, but in the expressive phrase of the stage, he "couldn't put it over." He suffered greatly from evil counsels. He confounded the judicial temperament with mental inertia; he was deliberate when he should have been decided; he decided when he should have been deliberate. A courteous, kindly gentleman, Richmond remembers his glass-

antly, and now wishes him well, even if it did not wish to see him re-elected.

President-Elect Wilson has four months in which to decide upon the personnel of his Cabinet, but the political prophets began making it for him yesterday. Governor Wilson will take counsel with hundreds of prominent people from every part of the nation before he comes to any conclusion as to a single member of his official family, yet the prognosticators are at work even now. Nothing is certain about the Cabinet save that the South will be well represented in its composition. In his first Cabinet President Cleveland had three Southerners out of the eight members—A. H. Garland, of Arkansas, Attorney-General; John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky, Secretary of the Treasury; and L. Q. C. Lamar, of Mississippi, Secretary of the Interior. The President-elect lets no intimation of his slate get out until just before his inauguration, so public curiosity will have to wait a while. The political guessers claim that Josephus Daniels, of North Carolina, will get the post-office portfolio, but to-morrow Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, will be added to the list, and the day after Cone Johnson, of Texas, will be added to him, and the day after McCombs, of Arkansas, will be added to him, and so on. But remember that the Cabinet-maker is the President.

The House is already safely Democratic; the Senate is still in doubt. The Senate—aye, there's the rub! Whatever its composition, the Senate will have its ears a good deal closer to the people than it has had before in many a long year. La Follette's direful prophecy has come true; the "millionaires' club" is dissolved.

DUST.

Dust is a good thing to meditate upon as an antidote for too much politics. After a year of hurly-burly, of pyrotechnics, of alarms and retreats and of pure noise the country might well think upon some fragment of reality that cannot speak. Too long pondering upon principles, ideals, measures, pointing with pride, viewing with alarm, or the theory of pure democracy is calculated to upset the best balanced mind. After all, this is but the machinery of living, and the essence and real joy of life is found in simpler and less confusing things. Elections are not ends in themselves; they give us no keen sense of being alive or of seizing upon the heart of human existence. Government is nothing but the means of making the earth habitable. Therefore dust, which is earth and man both, is of more importance.

The stated mind and spirit rebel at trying to measure destiny by electoral votes. We get sick and tired of wondering what society means, and feel content in letting the night wind blow on not brows or in watching the mimic storms of colored leaves whirling to the ground, unfettered by sharp frosts. Men want to touch or taste something to bring them back to sanity. What good does election bring to a blind man? Can any program lead him into the world with new eyes? The sunshine, the dust, is what he wants. The laughter of children, the quiet peace of home evenings, the honest joke, the mild speculations of friends, the grace of girls in new laces, the passion of great poetry or the small victories in games of chance and skill—these are the touchstones of happiness. The kinship of the dust, answering its one immutable law of gravity, is a good thing to remember when the inside of the skull seems a merry-go-round, and there is no brass ring as prize.

Man comes from the dust; he is fed upon the fruits of dust, and to dust he melts after a trifle of animation. All his labor is directed toward moving fragments of dust hither and yon, of stirring them with a plow or piling them on top each other to live in. The romance of the body is dust. Imperial Caesar as dust may stop a chink in the wall. The dust endures. To recall this in the dead calm after mad tumult is not unprofitable.

SOME AUTOMOBILE FIGURES.

The infant prodigy of infant industries is automobile manufacturing. In a decade transportation has been revolutionized. Business and society have been profoundly affected, and the future, historian alone will be able to estimate the influence of this new mode of traveling upon the human race. Figures about the use of automobiles reach tremendous totals.

On July 1, 1912, the number of motor vehicles in the United States actually accounted for by licenses was \$59,858. The cost their owners practically \$1,069,069,000. In the entire country every 11th person has a car. In the year ending on the above date the various States collected \$475,000 in license fees. In the District of Columbia a car is licensed for every thirty-five people. The State having the greatest number of cars per capita is Nebraska, one to every forty-five of the population. Mississippi is the land where automobiles are rarest, for only one person in 1,000 possesses a machine.

The economic significance of the automobile may be estimated from a single comparison. The 1911 potato crop in Maine was unusually good. The first six months of 1912 saw an increase of 67 per cent in the number of cars owned in that Commonwealth. Searchers for a cause of the high cost of living may ponder this fact with profit.

Although the total amount invested in automobiles has increased enormously, the average price of the single car has constantly decreased. The highest average price was reached in 1907, when the price was \$2,127. In 1910 it was \$1,482; in 1911, \$1,245, and in this year only \$1,093. This decrease in cost accounts for the number of

cars now purchased by the middle class family of moderate means.

Yet the lower price does not mean that the automobile has been cheapened in construction. The \$1,000 machine of to-day is better than the car that cost from three to five times as much a few years back. The car has been improved, made more convenient and comfortable, and simplified until it can be used by women. It is fast coming to be a necessity, demanded by the physical complexities of modern life.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE PROBLEM.

The weakness of our electoral college system, consequent upon the revolutionizing—negating, in truth—of the spirit and intent of the framers of the Constitution, has already been very practically and convincingly disclosed in three serious presidential election complications since the republic was founded. One of these led to the adoption of a constitutional amendment—the twelfth—and legislation by Congress has been necessary in anticipation of others in the future. The present campaign has suggested the possibility of a situation in which there might be a breakdown of the whole system, and hence considerable thought has been given recently by constitutional lawyers and others to the problem of forestalling such a possibility.

It is generally accepted that the subject should be taken under grave advisement. Various plans have been broached, and in this connection the question has been raised. Could the remedy and security be reached under the latitudinous electoral college powers—or methods—of choosing electors confirmed to the several States? At this juncture all suggestions bearing on the issue are interesting; all information is more or less valuable, as stimulating the public to give the problem intelligent consideration. Discussing the other day the changes in the operation of the electoral college system and in the manner of choosing electors by the States, we quoted Lanman as contending that the mode of choice by the people voting for electors in districts, and which in 1828 obtained in one-third of the States, "gave the fairest expression to public opinion by approaching nearest to the direct vote." Now all the States elect on a general ticket.

Pursuing the subject, we find in John Randolph Tucker's "Constitution of the United States" a most vigorous and striking plea for return to the district method. Mr. Tucker, after following the changes and showing that by reason of the departure from the original purpose of the system electors are today named by "ultra-constitutional" bodies, as represented in State and national party conventions, says:

"The solidity of the vote in the large States in these party conventions and through the electoral college in the election of President is giving to the large States a potential influence in deciding the canvass and election of President, which is unjust to the smaller States, enhancing the pretensions of public men in the large States, making such men in the small States practically ineligible, and threatens to place a dominating force in the hands of a few large States, who may, by combination dangerous to the Union, and fatal to the liberties of the people, put the government into the hands of an oligarchy instead of those of the whole people of the country."

Therefore, argues Mr. Tucker, if the present system is to be retained, it ought at least to be so amended as to divide the power of the large States by making districts for the presidential electors a recourse that would break up the solidity of the power of the large States and give representation to the minority in each, now easily "captured for the election of one who can command a bare majority in a million of votes." But these are not the only benefits Mr. Tucker holds would flow from the district mode of choosing. It would, he maintains, correct another great and growing evil in that money would be rendered less potent and the temptation to use it would be less strong. Further, it would decentralize power by multiplying the nuclei of public opinion throughout the whole nation.

In closing his discussion of the question, Mr. Tucker says that without expanding his views into full exposition, he has presented them in the hope of availing something to check evil tendencies and to secure the desired objects of the Constitution. Whether one stands in agreement with Mr. Tucker or not, as to the specific amendment he advocates, it will be generally recognized, we think, that he clearly sets forth some perilous workings and a very dangerous trend of the system as it has developed and prevailed. Moreover, that in the circumstances of virtually admitted necessity for reform or further legislation, in order to prevent the electoral college machinery from coming to a possible full stop, the reproduction of the opinion of such high constitutional authority is most timely. Mr. Tucker's plea and argument are pregnant with incentive to popular thought on the whole electoral college question.

And to-morrow the sun will keep on shining. Little children laugh. Indigestion continues to be the gravest question in American life, and bills be just as hard to meet as ever.

Colonel Harvey need worry no longer about the election being thrown into the House.

Perhaps the Balkan states might find use for T. R.

We note that baseball "dops" is appearing as usual. Not even a landslide can bury the great American game.

Armageddon has been added to the fifteen decisive battles of the world.

Women are funny things. Sometimes they cry 'cause they're happy. They're one party nice thing about the old fashioned feller with a hose on a buggy. Sometimes he'll stop an' pick you up instead of 'goin' 'way down the road, you know.

According to Uncle Abner.

Mr. Amory Tibbs, who has always wanted the post-office in this man's town, but has never got it, is now a full-fledged Bull Moose. Mr. Amos Purdy, who was defeated for road commissioner when he ran on the Republican ticket last spring, has joined the Bull Moose party. Mr. Hank Tumms, who has in 14 years been the unsuccessful candidate for the nomination for registrar of deeds, sheriff, county treasurer, county clerk, judge of probate and coroner, is now one of the most prominent Bull Moosers.

Miss Amy Pringle, our petite and courteous milliner, has gone to West Hickeyville to get the latest Paris shapes for the fall season.

Mr. Edith Bibbins, our popular druggist, made a mistake and put gasoline instead of gin in the "lemon" department of his soda fountain, and several of our prominent citizens have gone crazy and think they are automobiles.

How They Decided the People.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I enclose herewith a copy of what was posted prominently at the entrance of the voting place here to-day. I presume that similar notices were posted at every precinct throughout the State.

SHALL THE PEOPLE RULE?

Be sure to ask the judge of election for a ballot and vote for the constitution.

Abe Martin

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On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

The spotlight, the other night, and made a speech. 'Twas out of sight. He spoke down in the old town hall. The population, one and all, turned out to hear this feller tell 'em how to vote. He argued well. He was so smooth, by jing, that he could charm a bird out of a tree. He grabbed the stars out of the sky. He waved the starry flag on high. He said it was up to us men to save our country once again. He said as how 'twould go to pot 'Providin', of course, we did not stick to that old and faithful craft, The ship of state, and vote for Taft.

Another feller came along. We all turned out to hear his song. He said as how the time had come To put the boozies on the bum; That we could put them on the blink If we desired, quick as a wink. He told us all would be serene; That there would be no statecraft man. That common folks would get their rights. And would not have to worry nights; That this would be a land of milk And honey, and we'd all wear silk; We'd ride in automobiles and Enjoy all the sensations grand Which, up to now, the rich had folk. If we'd just vote for Roosevelt.

Along about the second day Another feller came our way. He said the tariff was a crime; That free trade was a thing sublime. He said the people everywhere Was not a-gettin' of their share Of good things that this world provide; That we was foolish, drat our hides, For not demandin' what was ours From them infernal money powers. He painted a word picture that Most turned a feller Democrat. His language was so doggone slick He got our goat, and got it quick. He said the trusts would have to bow If we would vote for Wilson, now.

Through all the speeches we have sat Bull Moose, Repub. and Democrat—And judgin' by the talks we've heard, To be alarmed is quite absurd. No matter how the contest goes, It means an end of all our woes. No matter who's elected, we Are going to have prosperity.

From The Hickeyville Clarion.

Seth Purdy, our gentlemanly and congenial druggist, also chest protectors and false teeth to rent by day or week (see adv. on page 3), says he is in favor of local option in our midst. If the drug store would only put on a free lunch it might be all right.

Deacon Stubbs' mule Hyacinth swallowed about nine rod of wire fence last week, and now the deacon says he can see good points sticking out all over her.

A forty-gallon power anneau wagon from the city hastened through our village last Thursday and knocked down the town hall. They let loose a couple of snorts on the horn all right, but the town hall didn't have time to get out of the way. I suppose they will claim that was contributory negligence.

Hod Peters has moved into a new house that has got hot and cold gas, hardwood plumbing, open floors and southern exposure. He told Rev. Hudnutt he had bought the place on the installment plan, \$1.00 down and 25 cents a month, and if his great-grandchildren are industrious they can at least get the front stoop paid for.

Mrs. Ansel Hank is now ready to take in boarders. Those who are prepared to be taken in will find no better place. Mrs. Hank serves roast beef Sunday, cold roast beef Monday, beef hash Tuesday, beef croquettes Wednesday, beef stew Thursday, beef à la mode Friday and minced beef Saturday. Jelly roll every Sunday, weather permitting.

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IF YOU SHOULD HAPPEN TO SEE—

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, by John T. McCutcheon.)



A gentleman rolling a peanut along the street.



or a gentleman rolling a peanut along the street, or a gentleman wheeling another gentleman down the avenue, or a gentleman eating his hat, or a gentleman lying on chop suey for a month, or a gentleman wearing his coat inside out, or a gentleman allowing his beard to grow.

DO NOT THINK HIM CRAZY, FOR HE IS ONLY A MAN WHO HAS GUESSED WRONG ON THE ELECTION RESULT.

tutional amendments, allowing cities to elect their own treasurer and commissioners of the revenue, just like the counties do now.

Scratch out the word Against in two places. Please post.

His, His, His, Phi Kappa Psi.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir.—It is not a matter of much importance, but as it was stated in the sketch of Marshall to what Greek letter fraternity he belonged, it may not be amiss to say that Wilson is a member of that grand Greek letter organization known as the Phi Kappa Psi.

Out of Date.

The times have changed in many ways. No use for horses in these days. There out of 'date, nor rich nor poor. There no need for 'em any more.

Like us ole men, they've had their day. An' like us, too, were once as gay; But progress has in searchin' found A better way to take things round.

An' so she's left the hose behind, Hard on the beast, but not unkind, Ole dobbin's reaps the same fate That falls to all when out of 'date.

The motor cars now hold the cup. A'n' will 'til somethin' else turns up; Then they will also all have fled, To be eclipsed by ships o'er head.

We must admit you've served us fine. An' praise you for it, but the time Has come when you're not on a par With the speed lightnin' motor car.

You must move off the crowded road; No use to kick, that does no good; Best way is jes' to do like us—Get off the track without a fuss.

Don't weep ole hoss, it 'haint no use; It is not mean as an abuse; You better take up your own cross An' bear it like we did, ole hoss.

The Democratic Landslide

Hail to the Mother!

Hats off to Old Virginia, mother of Presidents in general and of the President-elect in particular!—Baltimore Sun.

New Birth of Freedom.

Under the leadership of Woodrow Wilson the Democratic party has won its greatest victory since 1820.

But this victory is no tawdry partisan triumph. It is no vote of confidence in the Democratic party as a party. It is a mandate from the people, and was to the leaders of this Democracy if they falter in obedience to that mandate.

The country is seething with political discontent, in spite of its unparalleled material wealth and prosperity. This discontent is confined to no particular class or section. Rich and poor alike, children of fortune and children of poverty, have begun to lose faith in the efficiency of their government to establish justice and promote the greater welfare. They are not sure where the fault lies; they are not united as to the remedy; but this they will be agreed—these institutions have turned against them; that subtle, mysterious forces operating unseen have proved time after time that their power over public affairs was greater than the power of the people as a whole, and they demand that their government be emancipated from this partnership.

This is the great work that confronts Woodrow Wilson and the Democratic party—to restore popular confidence in the institutions of the republic and re-establish a government of the people, by the people and for the people.—New York World.

The End of Republican Rule.

The next President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, will go into office attended by an ample Democratic majority in the House of Representatives and encouraged by the prospect of an imminent change in the control of the Senate. For the first time since 1895—that is to say, for almost twenty years—the undivided responsibility for legislation and administration will rest upon the party which stood so nearly right with Grover Cleveland and went so frightfully wrong with Bryan in the disastrous adventure of 1896. The deadly influence of Bryan and Bryanism upon Democratic fortunes and usefulness during the inauguration of President Wilson—if President Wilson so will.

The best wish that The Sun can express for the President-elect, a comparatively untired man facing an unparalleled opportunity, is that he may seize upon the winds of Bryanism at the very start, and with all the strength that the sinews of long, lean fingers possess throttle that persistent and fatal thing into eternal silence.—New York Sun.

Advice to the Victor.

A few friendly words to Mr. Woodrow Wilson, designated as the next President of the United States: In this hour of your triumph The Herald would address a few words to you in a spirit of the utmost kindness and candor, not that they may be necessary to hold you true to your purpose, but because they may be helpful in upholding your hands.

The election has been held with the country in a great state of prosperity. A panic of 1907 has been lived down. The country under the administration of William H. Taft has been bounteously prosperous. Divine Providence has blessed it with the greatest crops in its history. It has gone forth and conquered markets of the world which it has hitherto not enjoyed, and there has been an expansion of American trade abroad keeping pace with the expansion of American production at home.

You have been elected very largely because a large portion of the American people have been led to believe that the cost of living has increased much greater than the individual income. This may be true or it may not be true.

It is now proposed to try the risky experiment of reducing the cost of living by upsetting industrial combinations which are called trusts and which are alleged to have enjoyed much greater than the individual income. This may be true or it may not be true.

You propose to do great things. Your program actually contemplates the re-making of industrial America. But we trust that your program to the very end will include the maintenance of the status quo of prosperity.—New York Herald.

A Rough Path.

As for Mr. Wilson, he has large, if indefinite, promises to redeem. He is to reduce the cost of living without reducing the stream of individual incomes. He is radically to cut down the tariff without injuring business. He is to abolish trusts and restore general competition. He is to carry out as a sacred pledge the radical platform which Mr. Bryan made for him at Baltimore. Behind him will be a Congress as undisciplined and hard to lead in some paths as that which confronted Mr. Cleveland. His task is difficult. That he may perform it with credit to himself and honor to the country is our most sincere wish.—New York Tribune.

A Free Man.

Governor Wilson was nominated by the general voice of the Democratic party of the whole country, and not by any interests or groups of political managers. He has grown steadily in the public estimation during the campaign. He has maintained the highest level of political discussion, and has proved a comprehensive grasp of the complicated problems of government, and at the same time shown the warmest sympathy with all classes of the people and hearty accord with the highest aspirations of the nation. His conduct as a candidate has vindicated his selection, and his conduct as President will abundantly justify the people's choice.—Philadelphia Record.

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